

(3) Richard L. Westcott

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I wish to comment on the proposal by Bily & Kubáň to fix the gender of *Trachys* Fabricius, 1801 as feminine. I find their argument without merit. There is no question that *Trachys* is masculine, as those authors themselves pointed out in para. 6 of their application. Furthermore, the authors of this case point out that ‘. . . it seems clear that there is no indication that *Trachys*, or its stem, is of common or variable gender’. Therefore, Article 30.1.4.2 of the Code has no bearing on this case.

Rather than purporting to know what Fabricius intended 206 years ago, or to promote ‘non-standard’ or ‘grammatically incorrect’ transliterations, is it not more parsimonious to infer that Fabricius simply brought across the feminine endings for his genus (*Trachys*) from the feminine genus *Buprestis*, wherein earlier names were included (e.g. *Buprestis pygmaea* L.), and made his specific names to conform?

In the absence of being able to ascertain just what Fabricius was thinking (not that I believe it matters in this case), let us not promote instability by changing gender for what should be an unambiguous Greek word. If the proposal is accepted, then what befalls the genera *Brachys* (another clearly masculine derivation), *Neotrachys*, *Paratrachys* (all BUPRESTIDAE), and any other ‘-achys’ epithets that may exist in zoological nomenclature?

It is a primary stated purpose of the Code to promote stability in zoological nomenclature. To change gender for a genus derived from a word where the gender is not in question, is not variable and where similarly derived genera either would not be in accordance or would need separate proposals to overturn their genders, does just the opposite: it promotes instability.

I strongly recommend that the Commission reject Case 3335.

(4) Petr Zabransky

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I support the proposal by Bily & Kubáň to rule that the gender of *Trachys* Fabricius, 1801 is feminine and that family-group names derived from that name should be formed by adding the appropriate ending to the name of the genus in the nominative case.

Comment on the proposed conservation of the generic names *Gnorimus* Le Peletier de Saint-Fargeau & Serville, 1828 and *Osmoderma* Le Peletier de Saint-Fargeau & Serville, 1828 (Insecta, Coleoptera)

(Case 3349; see BZN 63: 177–183, 274)

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I wish to indicate my full support for the arguments put forward by Krell, Ballerio, Smith and Audisio for conserving the generic names *Gnorimus* and *Osmoderma*. Nomenclatural stability would best be maintained by conserving these names and would reflect the current, worldwide usage of these names. The names recently 'discovered' and noted in the literature as senior synonyms (*Aleurostictus* Kirby, 1827 and *Gymnodus* Kirby, 1827) have long been forgotten and have not been used. They should not be resurrected.

Comment on the proposed conservation of *Cisseis* Gory & Laporte de Castelnau, 1839 and *Curis* Gory & Laporte de Castelnau, 1838 (Insecta, Coleoptera)

(Case 3366; see BZN 63: 247–250)

Allen Sundholm

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I wish to add my support to Chuck Bellamy's proposal in Case 3366 that the names *Cisseis* and *Curis* be conserved, on the same grounds which he has raised. I confirm that neither of the prior names is in use.

Comment on the proposed conservation of *Curculio contractus* Marsham, 1802 (Insecta, Coleoptera)

(Case 3367; see BZN 63: 251–254)

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I would like to support the retention of the name *Curculio contractus* Marsham, 1802 for the common and widespread species that mines in the leaves of cruciferous plants. In addition to its broad distribution it has connections with agricultural/horticultural practices. This is the result of feeding on the leaves of domesticated *Brassica* spp. and name changes would have an additional impact on economic entomological literature.

Any alternative names based on one of the few small and isolated island populations are not helpful. These are almost certainly not distinctive species, varying only in colour and reduced wing size (see Hancock & Dyer, 2005; other data in preparation). These names include *Ceutorhynchus pallipes* Crotch, 1866, *C. insularis* Dieckmann, 1971 and [ab.] *testaceipes* Dieckmann, 1971 for populations on Lundy, St Kilda and Surtsey. In the last case particularly the beetles' appearance on a recently erupted volcanic island and their likely recruitment from any neighbouring population throws doubt on speciation processes requiring geographical isolation.

Additional reference

Hancock, E.G. & Dyer, H. 2005. Finding *Ceutorhynchus* weevils (Coleoptera, Curculionidae) again on St Kilda. *The Coleopterist*, 14: 39–42.